

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9013
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS, JO
SUBJECT: SOME FURTHER WEST BANK REACTIONS TO LIKUD SUCCESS
AND CARTER STATEMENTS

REF: JERUSALEM 734, JERUSALEM 732, JERUSALEM 731,
JERUSALEM 723

1. NABLUS DEPUTY MAYOR ZAFAR AL MASRI TOLD CONGEN OFFICER
MAY 24 THAT HE BELIEVED WEST BANK PALESTINIANS WILL BE
EXPOSED TO INCREASED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE AS A
RESULT OF THE LIKUD'S RECENT ELECTORAL VICTORY. AL MASRI
BELIEVES INCREASED SETTLEMENT IN THE WEST BANK, AS RECENTLY
SUGGESTED BY LIKUD'S BEGIN AT QADDUM, WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE
RESISTED BY ARABS THROUGH DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS AND THAT
ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE TO CONSOLIDATE THAT RESISTANCE SO AN
INCIDENT ANYWHERE ON THE WEST BANK WILL BE PROTESTED EVERYWHERE.

2. AL MASRI ALSO FEARS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MILGOV AND
MUNICIPALITIES WILL DETERIORATE EVEN FURTHER TO A POINT WHERE
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THE MILGOV WILL NOT EVEN DEIGN TO RECEIVE VERBAL PROTESTS
THUS LEAVING MASS DEMONSTRATIONS AS THE REGULAR MODE OF
POLITICAL EXPRESSION.

3. AL MASRI, HOWEVER, DOUBTS THAT THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT WILL
REVERSE THE POLICY OF OPEN BRIDGES BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE
ISRAELI INFORMANTS AND CONTRABAND ACCESS TO THE ARAB WORLD.

4. DESPITE SHORT-TERM HARDSHIPS, THE BASIC PROSPECTS FOR THE WEST BANK HAVE NOT CHANGED, ACCORDING TO AL MASRI. THE LABOR PARTY, NO LESS THAN THE LIKUD, NEVER SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED MAKING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS VOLUNTARILY. AS BEFORE, ANY WITHDRAWALS WILL COME ONLY WITH U.S. PRESSURE.

5. PRESIDENT CARTER'S RE-AFFIRMATION OF THE NEED FOR A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND HAS BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED BY WEST BANK PALESTINIANS. ACCORDING TO AL MASRI, THE PRESIDENT HAS WON A LARGE MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE AMONG THE POPULATION WHICH IS ALMOST CONVINCED (AFTER AN INITIAL PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY) THAT CARTER DOES NOT HAVE JORDAN IN MIND AS THE SITE FOR THAT HOMELAND.

6. CARTER'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY, SERIALIZED IN ARABIC IN AL QUDS, HAS REINFORCED THIS TRUST. EVEN SOME CONSISTENTLY HOSTILE AND SUSPICIOUS PALESTINIANS NOW BELIEVE IN CARTER'S PERSONAL INTEGRITY. SOME COMMENTS: "A GOOD, HONEST FELLAH (FARMER), UNTainted BY WASHINGTON POLITICS." " A GOOD MAN WHO CARES ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD NOT JUST THE RULING MINORITIES."

7. HOWEVER, SOME SKEPTICAL WEST BANKERS ARE WONDERING WHETHER THE U.S. WILL BE AS CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE WEST BANK AS WE ARE IN OTHER PLACES AND WHETHER THE U.S. WILL TAKE PRACTICAL STEPS TO DISCOURAGE LIKUD POLICIES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (ESPECIALLY SETTLEMENTS) OF WHICH WE PUBLICLY DISAPPROVE.

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